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MEMORANDUM

TO: Principals, Headmasters, CTE Directors, and Superintendents
FROM: Angela Ross, Public Information Officer
SUBJECT: School safety and security initiative
DATE: May 16, 2014

On behalf of the Secretary of Education and the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety we are pleased to announce a school safety and security initiative that will be taking place over the coming year. Our agencies have partnered with [Margolis Healy](#), a national consulting firm, which will be providing consulting services in the areas of school crisis planning, collaboration with state and federal agencies to disseminate national trends in school crisis planning and response, development of a statewide school safety public awareness campaign, identification of school safety grant funding, and assistance in the coordination of regional school safety table top exercises. Margolis Healy is a leading professional services firm specializing in campus safety, security and regulatory compliance, that was recently awarded a grant from the Department of Justice to establish and lead the new National Center for Campus Public Safety that will be located in Burlington, Vermont.

Over the next several months, members of the Margolis Healy team may be calling to set up meetings with some of you or to inquire about existing safety and security procedures in your schools. The point person for this work will be Mr. Rob Evans, Public Safety Officer for the Agency of Education ([AOE](#)) and Department of Public Safety ([DPS](#)). Many of you may know Rob from his previous employment with the Vermont State Police. You can view his bio here: <http://bit.ly/1n0O8fk>. Managing partner and former University of Vermont Police Chief Dr. Gary Margolis and other members of the Margolis Healy team will also be assisting Rob with his work in Vermont.

In addition, throughout the coming year, we will offer a variety of school safety training opportunities. We encourage you to take advantage of them. In an effort to be respectful of your valuable time, many of these opportunities will be Internet based so they can be viewed in real time or when you and your staff have time to view them. We look forward to moving forward with this important initiative as we collectively work to provide Vermont's children with a safe and nurturing environment to learn and grow.

As a reminder, the Vermont School Crisis Guide is available online:
http://vem.vermont.gov/preparedness/school_crisis.